

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 01029 090836Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 081300Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 1029

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PDIP PGOV ETRN EGEN MP CH
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW 2 SEPTEMBER 8, 1978 - SUMMARY

REF: PORT LOUIS 996 (DTG 010830Z SEP 78)
PORT LOUIS A-74

1. THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE BOOD OO AND OLD GUARD WINGS OF THE MAURITIAN LABOR PARTY CONTINUED THIS WEEK BQT WITH SOMEWHAT LESS STRIDENCY THAN HERETOFORE. FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO DISAVOWED EARLIER RATHER HARSH THREATS AGAINST THE BOODHOO GROUP MADE BY PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL JAGATSINGH. BOTH THE BOODHOO GROUP AND THE MMM HAVE THREATENED TO TAKE THEIR OPPOSITION TO A 15 PER CENT BUS FARE INCREASE ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK BY RINGADOO TO THE FLOOR OF THE ASSEMBLY WHEN THAT BODY RECONVENES IN NOVEMBER.

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2. THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS, HARRIS RAMPHUL, WHO HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOODHOO GROUP, SIGNIFIES THAT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP IS MAKING SOME ATTEMPT TO CO-OPT FROM THE RANKS OF THE DISSIDENTS THOSE SO SUSCEPTIBLE. OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE OLD GUARD MAY BE PREPARING SOME COMPROMISE POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS THE BOODHOOITES

ARE THE ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT, SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF THE YEAR, OF LABOR MINISTER MOHAMED AND RUMORS OF A MINI-CABINET RESHUFFLE IN WHICH TWO UNNAMED MINISTERS WILL BE SENT ABROAD AS MAURITIAN AMBASSADORS IN ADDITION TO MOHAMED, WHO IS REPORTEDLY SLATED TO BECOME MAURITIAN AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO. THREE CABINET SEATS MAY THUS BECOME AVAILABLE AS REWARDS FOR THOSE REJOINING THE PARTY FAITHFUL OR AS TOKENS OF AN OLD GUARD WILLINGNESS TO BRING NEW FACES FROM THE BOODHOO GROUP INTO PARTY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.

3. PRIME MINISTER RAMBOOLAM HAS AGAIN PRIVATELY MENTIONED PLANS FOR RETIREMENT -- THIS TIME TO THE WIFE OF THE US AMBASSADOR.

4. FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC MEASURES ON SEPTEMBER 1 WHICH DO NOT STRIKE US AS MUCH MORE THAN EXERCISES IN PUBLIC RELATIONS. THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURES WERE: A 15 PERCENT BUS FARE INCREASE FOR LONG DISTANCE PASSENGERS TO REDUCE OPERATING DEFICITS OF PRIVATELY-OWNED BUS COMPANIES AND FORMATION OF A NATIONAL TRANSPORT CORPORATION WITH GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.

5. FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO IS PRESENTLY ON A TRIP THROUGH ASIA (MAINLAND CHINA, NORTH KOREA, HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE) ENROUTE TO THE IBRD/IMF MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. RINGADOO WILL SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM CHINA AND NORTH KOREA AND COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS OF DOLLARS 60 MILLION IN HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE.

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